

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7172

To resolve the claims of the Bering Straits Native Corporation and the State of Alaska to land adjacent to Salmon Lake in the State of Alaska and to provide for the conveyance to the Bering Straits Native Corporation of certain other public land in partial satisfaction of its land entitlement under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

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1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Salmon Lake Land
5 Selection Resolution Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

3 (1) Salmon Lake and the water upstream and
4 downstream from Salmon Lake contain important
5 fisheries resources of significance to Alaska Natives
6 in the Bering Straits Region and other residents of
7 the State of Alaska;

8 (2) certain land adjacent to Salmon Lake on
9 the Seward Peninsula within the Bering Straits Re-
10 gion contains archaeological and cultural resources
11 of significance to Alaska Natives in the Bering
12 Straits Region, other residents of the State, and the
13 citizens of the United States;

14 (3) land adjacent to Salmon Lake on the Sew-
15 ard Peninsula within the Bering Straits Region of-
16 fers, and is suitable for, a variety of recreational ac-
17 tivities;

18 (4) the State of Alaska, acting under the Act
19 of July 7, 1958 (commonly known as the “Alaska
20 Statehood Act”) (Public Law 85–508; 72 Stat. 339),
21 has selected land in the Salmon Lake area under
22 section 6(b) of that Act (72 Stat. 340);

23 (5) the Bering Straits Native Corporation, an
24 Alaska Native Regional Corporation formed under
25 the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C.
26 1601 et seq.), has selected land in the Salmon Lake

1 area under section 14(h)(8) of that Act (43 U.S.C.
2 1613(h)(8));

3 (6) the Bering Straits Native Corporation and
4 the State of Alaska have conflicting selections to cer-
5 tain land in the Salmon Lake area;

6 (7) the Secretary of the Interior (on behalf of
7 the United States), the State, and the Bering
8 Straits Native Corporation have concluded that it is
9 in the interest of all three parties—

10 (A) to protect and preserve the historical,
11 cultural, and natural resources of the Salmon
12 Lake area;

13 (B) to equitably resolve the conflicting land
14 selections made by the State under the Alaska
15 Statehood Act and those made by the Bering
16 Straits Native Corporation in the Salmon Lake
17 area under section 14(h)(8) of the Alaska Na-
18 tive Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C.
19 1613(h)(8)) without further administrative ap-
20 peals or litigation; and

21 (C) to provide simultaneously for—

22 (i) continued public ownership, man-
23 agement, use, and access to certain land in
24 the Salmon Lake area;

1 (ii) conveyance to the State of certain
2 land in the Salmon Lake area in partial
3 satisfaction of the entitlement of the State
4 under section 6(a) of the Act of July 7,
5 1958 (Public Law 85–508; 72 Stat. 340);
6 and

7 (iii) conveyance to the Bering Straits
8 Native Corporation of certain land in the
9 Salmon Lake area and other areas of the
10 Bering Straits Region in partial satisfac-
11 tion of the land allocation of the Corpora-
12 tion under section 14(h)(8) of the Alaska
13 Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C.
14 1613(h)(8)); and

15 (8) legislation is required to ratify the Agree-
16 ment among the Secretary of the Interior, the State,
17 and the Bering Straits Native Corporation to resolve
18 the conflicting land selections made by the State and
19 the Bering Straits Native Corporation.

20 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to ratify
21 the “Salmon Lake Area Land Ownership and Consolida-
22 tion Agreement” as entered into by the Department of the
23 Interior, the State, and the Bering Straits Native Cor-
24 poration.

1 **SEC. 3. RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT AMONG THE BU-**
2 **REAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, THE STATE OF**
3 **ALASKA, AND THE BERING STRAITS NATIVE**
4 **CORPORATION.**

5 (a) RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The terms, conditions, cov-
7 enants, and procedures set forth in the document
8 entitled “Salmon Lake Area Land Ownership and
9 Consolidation Agreement”, which was executed by
10 the Department of the Interior, the State of Alaska,
11 and the Bering Straits Native Corporation, effective
12 July 18, 2007, and which is on file with the Depart-
13 ment of the Interior, the Committee on Energy and
14 Natural Resources of the Senate, and the Committee
15 on Natural Resources of the House of Representa-
16 tives, are hereby incorporated in this section and are
17 ratified as to the duties and obligations of the
18 United States, the State of Alaska, and the Bering
19 Straits Native Corporation as a matter of Federal
20 law.

21 (2) CONFLICT.—Subject to valid existing rights,
22 if any of the terms of the Agreement conflict with
23 any other provision of law, the terms of the Agree-
24 ment shall be controlling.

1 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF ACTIONS.—The Secretary of
2 the Interior is authorized to take all actions permitted or
3 required under the Agreement.

